(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the news report appeared in the print media recently regarding ONGC admitting no major discoveries in the last twenty years;

(b) if so, the details thereof this fact that no major discoveries have been made during the last twenty years by ONGC; and

(c) the number of oil-reserves found during the said period in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It may be clarified that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) considers the terminology "Major Discovery" as discovery of 500 MMboe (Million Barrels oil equivalent) of recoverable reserves, and ONGC not having made any such discovery during the period referred to the media article would have a degree of validity.

It may, however, be stated that ONGC's exploration strategy is a mix of resource utilization for exploration while also concentrating its efforts towards field growth. Thus, ONGC has also been focusing on exploration in areas contiguous to known discoveries. If the discovered 20 major fields of ONGC are considered, in the twenty year period mentioned in the article (1987—2007), ONGC has, in fact, accreted 3990 MMboe (O+OEG) of recoverable reserves equivalent to eight majors (giants). The discoveries made by ONGC under Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) regime are under various stages of appraisal. Size of discoveries will be known after the appraisal.

(c) As far as ONGC is concerned, it has established 2876.98 million metric tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas (MMtoe) inplace including accretion from field growth which includes 1811.21 MMt oil inplace in the last twenty years (1987-2007).

As far as Private Companies/Joint Ventures (JVs) are concerned, initial inplace oil reserves as on 1.4.2006 are 548.77 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).

Gas reserves in Krishna Godavari basin

*579. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas producers have shown any interest to tap the huge gas reserves identified in the KG basin; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, 29 exploration blocks have been awarded so far in KG Basin to various Indian and foreign companies, either alone or in consortium with other companies.

As a result of exploration activities, as of now, 21 gas discoveries have been made in these blocks in KG Basin out of which gas inplace reserves in 4 discoveries have been established to the tune of 396 BCM. The development plans of two discoveries have been finalised. Other discoveries are at various stages of appraisal/evaluation by the operators.

Historical temples in Uttarakhand

†*580. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount being spent for the preservation of various historical temples in Uttarakhand;

(b) whether any special plan has been formulated for the preservation of the group of temples situated in Dwarahat in the state; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Details of expenditure incurred for the preservation and conservation of centrally protected temples in the state of Uttarakhand for the last three years is as follows:

Year	Expenditure incurred
2004-05	Rs. 105.88 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 104.78 lakhs
2006-07	Rs. 122.50 lakhs

(b) and (c) Conservation of the group of temples situated in Dwarahat is included in the Annual Conservation Programme of Dehradun Circle for 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 26.50 lakhs has been made for this purpose in the current year's allocation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.